

19 July 1960

SOUTH KOREA

- DOCUMENT NO. 12
NO CHANGE REQUIRED
DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGE
NEXT REVIEW
AUTH. FOR THE
890A001200070009-8
DATE: 37204

1. Hostile public opinion, including public demonstrations, has caused 20 of 54 candidates running under Liberal label to withdraw from race.
- D. Left-of-center parties have emerged with about 150 candidates competing for lower house seats.
- E. Present Premier Huh Chung is not seeking election and has disclaimed any political ambitions.
 1. He has announced he will retire from public life when new government is formed but he might be "available" for election to the presidency.
- IV. Overriding campaign issue is correction of abuses of Rhee regime, although outcome likely to be strongly influenced by local issues and loyalties, particularly in conservative rural areas.
 - A. Relations with the US are not an issue.
 - B. Some socialists are attempting to make peaceful unification with North Korea an issue but response of conservatives and other socialists has been adverse.
 - C. Issue of relations with Japan is available for ready exploitation although it has not yet figured prominently in slow-starting campaign.
 - D. Chang Myon has publicly stated he will cut South Korea's 700,000-man armed forces to 400,000 and minimize defense budget if Democratic party wins.
 1. While Democrats have long advocated military reduction, this could be election gambit to attract votes of potential draftees and undercut similar promises of socialists.